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Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College, "Faculty Senate Resolution 16-10" (2016). *LSU Faculty Senate Publications*. 484.

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FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 16–10

Free Speech and Academic Freedom at LSU

Sponsored by Ken McMillin

Whereas Faculty Senate Resolution 16-01 “Freedom of Expression on Campus” was adopted February 22, 2016 to affirm the University of Chicago and Princeton University common statement on freedom of expression;

Whereas the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution prevents laws from abridging the freedom of speech;

Whereas the core mission of the American Association of University Professors is to protect academic freedom while ensuring that higher education institutions are conducted for the public good;

Whereas the Faculty Senate expects that the university administration will educate students on our institution’s commitment to freedom of inquiry and expression; to expectations of rigorous debate, discussion, and disagreement; and to reinforcing diversity as a University priority, all of which necessitate civility and mutual respect;

Whereas statements of LSU commitment to the principle of academic freedom are in the online Faculty Handbook and policy statement PS-36T Tenure-Track and Tenured Faculty: Appointments, Reappointments, Promotions, Tenure, Annual Reviews, and Enhancement of Job Performance;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate reaffirms, once again, its commitment to freedom of expression, freedom of speech, and academic freedom;

Therefore be it further resolved that the LSU President/Chancellor, Provost, and Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment demonstrate leadership by developing a clear policy on LSU's commitment to freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and academic freedom in conjunction with faculty leaders;

Therefore be it further resolved that the LSU President/Chancellor, Provost, and Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment initiate, sponsor, and publicize forums, debates, dialogues, and other forms of discussion in consultation with faculty leaders that promote respectful, civil discourse on controversial topics affecting the University, engagement with our community, and higher education.